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# RFE Scheme Needs Correcting

SPOTLIGHT  
PAGE

## CAPITAL REPORT

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—

The high priests and sponsors of the Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe are charging that I am trying to destroy their organizations.

It would be tragic, they say, if the Crusade should be discredited, because it would be almost impossible to ever re-create a similar fund-raising organization. With this I agree, but it seems to be time to place the purpose of my reporting in proper perspective.

The weakness of Radio Free Europe lies not in its stated objectives but in the execution of them.

There are brave proclamations about the "message of

Truth" to the enslaved peoples of the Iron Curtain. There are son Avenue hucksterism.

This is all very impressive and no doubt effective, in beguiling "truth dollars" out of the public. But the integrity of the entire vast scheme hinges on the integrity of the broadcast material projected into the air by the RFE transmitters in Munich and Portugal. To the exact extent that this material is unlike what is advertised to those who support it here at home, the whole project is immoral, and cries out for correction.

ADMITTEDLY, much of the manning of the foreign language desks in RFE, both in Munich and New York, is by former political figures in the Iron Curtain countries, who

fled to the West when the Stalinist puppet governments took over in 1948.

The fallacy of the operation lies in the pretense that these politicians in exile represent some democratic regime in the Iron Curtain countries between war's end and the Communist takeover.

It is not so. In every case, the interim governments or "National Fronts" were under the domination of the Russian armies of occupation. The people who made up the National Fronts were collaborators with the Reds. Non-collaborators were not tolerated.

I am prepared to concede certain principles. If these discredited, hack politicians want to continue to propagandize the people they sold out in the home countries, with the same old socialistic, wearisome, har-

angue, they have the right to do so. If they can find American money which, in truthful knowledge of what it is supporting, is willing to foot the bill, well and good—so long as their host, the West German Government, interposes no objection.

But when honored industrial names and the appealing eagerness of newsboy faces at the door are utilized, innocently, to solicit that financial support under the banner that "each truth dollar broadcasts a minute of truth to the enslaved people behind the Iron Curtain," I fall off the sled.

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